30-day recall period). In 2004-05, 301.7 million people are estimated to live below the poverty line as per URP consumption distribution, and 238.50 million people are estimated to live below the poverty line as per MRP consumption distribution.

(b) and (c) The Eleventh Plan is under formulation. However, the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Plan has set reduction in the headcount ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percentage points during the Plan Period.

The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty: (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets building for the poor. A number of programmes/Schemes have been introduced by the Government from time to time to improve the condition of the people living below the poverty in rural and urban areas.

Policy for regulatory organisation

4671. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new policy for laying down norms/policy to govern all regulatory organisations such as SEBI, TRAI and IRDA has been formulated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient feature of this policy;

(d) in what manner it would safeguard the interests of consumers; and

(e) to what extent such a policy decision by the Planning Commission for establishment of multi-sector regulator would benefit Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (e) The National Common Minimum

Programme states, *inter alia,* that 'all regulatory institutions will be strengthened to ensure that competition is free & fair. These institutions will be run professionally'.

In regard to the above NCMP item, the Planning Commission was asked to prepare a paper on the regulatory framework for infrastructure sector.

A consultation paper on 'Approach to Regulation of Infrastructure—Issues and Options' has since been prepared and a copy of the paper has been put on the websites of the Planning Commission: *www.planningcommission.gov.in* and the Committee on Infrastructure: *www.infrastructure.gov.in* for comments of the stakeholders, experts, etc.

This paper analyses the rationale for regulation, surveys the existing regulatory institution with respect to their roles, scope and identifies the principles and policy options for an overarching regulatory framework—independence and autonomy; functions of the regulator and his interface with the subject Ministry; accountability of the regulator; transparency of the regulatory process; competition issues and interface with the Competition Commission; dispute resolution etc., which are basic to their institutional design.

A meeting was convened on 25th September 2006 with the Ministries/ Department concerned, regulators, academicians, industry associations and other stakeholders to discuss the above. After the discussion, the participants were requested to send their written comments so that a revised version of the paper could be prepared and focused discussion on the same could be held with all stakeholders, regulators, consumer groups, etc.

Public-Private Partnership for road construction

†4672. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of road construction projects in the country have been decided to be conducted under Public-Private Partnership;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.